

(171)
Strange **NEWS** 3/4
FOR
ENGLAND:

BEING

A true and perfect RELATION

of the two great and unheard of *Wonders*, seen in the River of
Thames; on *Thursday* last, near *Blackwall*, who presented
themselves to the view of many Hundred Spectators,
for several hours, to the great astonishment of the
Beholders; and the great Effects & Changes
that hapned thereupon, being the day
before the Dissolution of the
PARLIAMENT.

Likewise, the manner of Dissolving

the Parliament on *Friday* last; And a Commission presented to the
Lord *Fiennes*, and the rest of the Commissioners, constituting and
appointing them, in the Name of His Highness the Lord
Protector, to put the same in execution, according
to the tenor of the said Commission.

With the Resolution of the General

Council of the Officers of the Army, in order to a well-ferled
Government, and the Peace and Liberties of the People.

Strange News FOR ENGLAND

A true and perfect Relation

of the two great and famous of waters, seen in the River of
 London, on the 17th day of May, 1666, when the
 famous view of many islands, and
 is a true and perfect Relation of the
 Honorable, and the great effects of Changes
 that have been observed upon being the day
 before the Dissolution of the
 PARLIAMENT.

Likewise, the manner of Dissolving

the Parliament on Friday last; And a Commission presented to the
 Lord Treasurer, and the rest of the Commissioners, concerning and
 appointing them in the Name of His Majesty the King
 Proceed to put the same in execution according
 to the tenor of the said Commission.

With the Resolution of the General

Council of the Officers of the Army, to send to a well tested
 Government and the Peace and Justice of the People.

Strange News for England: Being a true and perfect Relation of the two great Wonders seen in the River of Thames, on Thursday last, near Black-Wall; the day before the Dissolution of the Parliament of England, assembled at Westminster.



Severy Age hath its Rise and Center in the Various Revolutions, and Mutations of Times; So hath the Divine Hand of Providence figured out unto Us; His Wonderful Signals in the Waters, as well as his Admired Exhalations in the Heavens; being the Fore-runners of so great Changes, or Alterations: And very observable it is, That a little before the Civill Broiles between the Red-Rose and the White; that is, to say, the two Houses of York & Lancaster, where-with poor England, for a long time, was rent in pieces, the River Ouse in Bedfordshire stood still; and by reason that the Waters gave back on both sides, men might pass on foot in the very Channel for
three

three miles together, not without the astonishment of all that saw it, who took it as a presage of the Divisions ensuing, *Camb. Brit. p. 399.*

And in the year, 1642. near *Portendown Bridge*, within the Province of *Ulster* in *Ireland*, where many of the Protestants had been drowned by the Rebels, appeared several Visions, or Apparitions, sometimes of men, sometimes of women breast-high above the water, which did most extremely, and fearfully screech, and cry out,

Revenge, Revenge, Revenge.

Several other Prodigious Examples we might introduce; as the appearing over the City of *Prague* in *Bohemiah*, in the year 1611. about the midst of *October*, a Crown in the Air, giving a very great light, and about it Armies of men fighting, as if it were who should have it, *Turkish Hist. p. 1310.* but we shall not digress, or deviate too far from the intended Subject; onely represent you with such Remarkable Events, that hapned upon the great Turn and Change of these latter Times: For, true it is, that the day before the King was beheaded, a great Whale ran himself on shore three miles from *Dover*, where he dyed; He was 66 foot long: *A thing rarely seen in this Island.*

Nay

Nay more, Not long before the Dissolution of his late Highness, from his Earthly Tabernacle; another mighty Whale came rolling up the River of *Thames*, which at the last, after great difficulty, received its Mortal Wounds near *Debtford*: which apparently presaged another Change; the truth hereof being verified, in the death of the late Protector.

And on *Thursday* last, being the 21 of this present *April*, 1659. two other strange Wonders were seen near *Black-wall*, sporting and playing in the Waters; the one, being a huge and mighty Fish, much like unto a great Black Bull, having the perfect Form and Shape of his Head and Horns: The other, a Mairmaid, being a Fish so called, who from the crown of the head, to the middle-part, lively represents the true Portraiture of the Feminine Sex; and from the middle-part downwards, the perfect Figure of a Fish, adorned with many Fins, and a long Tail.

These two strange Fishes, not usually beheld in these Waters, caused no little astonishment to the Beholders; and having for some hours, appeared floating, at the last dived again to their Natural Center, seeming obscure; yet now and then, for the space of an hour and half, for'd up with their heads; until such time, that the Concourse of People grew so great from all the Countrey towns, and parts adjacent, that at the last these two admired Objects, deprived them of any further sight, by diving into the Waters.

Touching which, many were the Conjectures held forth by the Spectators; some ruminating one way

way, some another; yet all concluding, that there would suddainly happen some great change or alteration; which indeed was truly presaged: For upon *Friday*, being the 22. of this instant Moneth, it so happened, that the Parliament was dissolved; the manner thus:

The Right Honorable the Lord *Fleetwood*, and the rest of the Officers of the Army, having at several Meetings consulted the preservation of the Peace and Liberties of the People of these Nations, and the inevitable danger of sinking the *Good Old Cause*, in which sundry great Leaks were already sprung, unanimously resolved to appear above Deck, in the ship of the Common-wealth, and to use all possible means for the stopping of every breach and hole, against these Pilots, who endeavoured to obviate all means of recovery; and to that end, having drawn up a Writ or Instrument, for the dissolving of both Houses, on *Thursday* last presented it to his Highness for his assent; but he denied to give his Subscription until *Friday* morning; at which time, divers of the Honourable Council of Officers, again attended his Highness; and upon subscribing the same, the Usher of the Black-Rod was sent for, who (by special command and authority) presented it to the House of Lords; and it being read, their Lordships received their Dissolution from the power and virtue thereof.

The like Writ or Instrument was transmitted by the said Usher of the Black-Rod, to the House of COMMONS; but they having notice thereof, denied him entrance, and immediately put it to the VOTE, to adjourn themselves, which

cordingly they did ; and upon the Members rising, the Sergeant at Arms was commanded to bear the Mace, who waited upon the Speaker to his Coach, being attended by divers Honourable Members of the House, where greeting each other, they bid *Vale* till Munday, the 25. instant, &c.

In order to which sudden Change, who knows, but that it may be a mercy fledg'd with expectation and hopes on all hands, that yet we may see the happy days so much endeavoured, and the arrived Haven so much desired. And for as much as it concerns every individual Member of this Commonwealth, to do somewhat for the recovery of this weighty ship, already sunk so deep in the Waters of Tyranny, and to arouse each other out of his own Cabin, that would not be drowned in the *Common Calamity*; in the *Inundation* whereof, we have a long time been up to the very ears. And seeing we see it possible, yea probable (if the Lord please) that the *Common Good and weal*, may yet emerge once more above the heads of our highest Enemies, or Floods of *Common Evil*, that have gotten over us ; Wherefore, let all true *English-men*, that hold yet faithful and affected to the publike good, safety, and welfare of the *Common-wealth*, with heart and hands, unanimously resolve to stand by those, that as Christians, have kept up a most gallant Spirit, and courage for Christ's Interest, that as men (yea as *English-men*) have maintained and asserted the common cause.

of Right and Freedom, from Tyranny and Oppression; so honourably maintained by the Officers of the Army, with the hazard of Lives, Liberties, Estates, Blood, and Limbs; and all to keep out the *Common Calamity*; in such a Juncture, when the turbulent Surges, if not source, of tumultuating mischiefs, had almost suffocated Us. In a word, what remains? But the *English-men* do unite, as one man, with one counsel, strength, and resolution, to preserve this *Ship*, wherein the weal or woe of us all are aboard, and must stand or fall together in the *Publique Calamity*. Believe it, where Usurpation leads the Van, Judgment will bring up the Rear. For know, that if you be but active and resolute, your Coffins will be converted to Crowns of Victory, and Palms of Tryumph, when such as aim at the ruine of their Countrey, shall to all Eternity have horror in their Hearts, and infamy in their Memories.

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